



COMMENCEMENT OF THE GREAT FAST

**The “Divine Praises” and the
Eucharistic Celebration
for Commencing the Great Fast
in the East Syriac or Chaldeo-Indian
Liturgical Heritage**

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Chaldeo-Indian Liturgical Heritage.

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Preface

Fasting in Syro-Malabar Church

Pleasing to God - Personal Perfection

“Pour forth your hearts before Him. By fasting, prayer and repentance, let us please Christ and His Father and His Spirit”. This mystery of faith is repeated every day in their *Qurbana* by the *Mar Thomma Nazranikal*. To please the Creator is the only duty of all creatures. Our Creator is the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is in Jesus Christ, the God-man, that the Holy Trinity is revealed to us men. Only by fasting, prayer and repentance can one please this God in Holy Trinity.

Father and the Spirit in Christ

Our Holy Scriptures reveal to us that we are able to know the Father and the Spirit only in Jesus Christ. This article of faith is always proclaimed in the liturgical heritage of the East Syriac or Chaldeo-Indian tradition. The father in faith of the East Syriac Churches, *Mar Thomma Sliha*, once asked of Jesus Christ: “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how can we (then) know the way ?”(Jn 14,5). Our Lord immediately gave him the reply: “I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but by Me”(Jn 14,6). He added: “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also”(Jn 14,7). When Philip the Apostle showed his great desire to see the Father, our Lord very clearly said that the Father ought to be seen and experienced in Himself. “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know Me, Philip ? He who has seen Me has seen the

Father ...”(Jn 14,9). This was the faith experience of the early Church; St. Paul expresses it clearly in his second letter to the Corinthians (13,14). The East Syriac Churches confess it several times in their Divine Liturgy: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always and forever”.

Pour Forth the Hearts

The duty of each *Mesihite* (Christian) is to please the God revealed in Jesus Christ. Pouring forth our hearts in His presence is the only way to do that. This is the posture of all creatures before the Creator. Nobody can hide anything there. When every creature understands this fact and becomes able to stand erect in His presence, then it has reached its existential perfection. It is a moment of sincerity, purity and total surrender. Man is brought to this state of life only through fasting, prayer and repentance.

Fasting, Prayer and Repentance

The word *upawasa* which the *Mar Thomma Nazranikal* used to express their life of fasting, literally means to be with the Lord, namely, forgetting every thing else, to remain in the presence of the Lord with an open and sincere heart. This being before the Lord is true prayer. According to biblical scholars, praise and thanksgiving are the supreme expression of human prayer. No creature that understands its reality of being brought into existence from nothingness can become eloquent there. He/she will definitely stand with praise and thanksgiving before the Lord. But that requires the feeling of being redeemed. We are all sinners who have desecrated and misused the responsible freedom that the Lord had given us, human beings. Thus we became helpless and unable to stand erect before the Lord. The Only Begotten Son of God emptied Himself and became man in order to save us from this helpless condition. He spent Himself

as a ransom for us and redeemed us by His own initiative. This feeling of being redeemed from our helpless condition alone can make us stand in full submission before the Lord with the sentiments of praise and thanksgiving. Only thus can we attain the perfection of humanity.

Fasting and *Mar Thomma Nazranikal*

The *Mar Thomma Nazranikal* are very earnest in having their fasting be in accordance with the biblical style and in accordance with the celebration of the holy dispensation accomplished in Jesus Christ. Their ancient tradition shows that they were great friends of fasting. The Indian life-situation has definitely influenced them to love fasting.

Fifty-Day Fasting

Forty days of fasting before the Resurrection of our Lord is a custom in all Christian traditions. The *Mar Thomma Nazranikal*, however, call it fifty-day fasting or the Great Fast. According to strict scientific calculation, there are only forty days of fasting. For, the fasting begins only on Monday after *Pethratha* Sunday and is concluded on the Thursday of *Peseha*. But in popular counting, they include all Sundays (non-fasting days) and the Passion Friday and Great Saturday (extra fasting days for them) and thus there are fifty days.

Passion and Death of our Lord

The Great Fast is the occasion in the liturgical year specially to celebrate the Passion and Death of our Lord. That leads the faithful naturally to the reasons behind the Passion and Death. Thus the fasting days help us to meditate on the sin of our first parents, our inclination to sin and its consequences, separation from God, the call to repentance and return, God's infinite love and mercy and so on.

Remembrance of the Departed

Death is one of the effects of sin. Remembrance of death will naturally lead one to repentance and reconciliation. That is why the Syro-Malabar Church celebrates the memory of all the departed on the last Friday of the Weeks of Epiphany, so that the faithful enter becomingly into the Great Fast. Moreover, the whole period of the Great Fast is the occasion to remember their departed in a special way. According to the genius of the Syro-Malabar liturgical heritage all the departed are specially remembered during the Great Fast and not in the month of November.

Pethratha Sunday

The Great Fast begins at mid-night of *Pethratha Sunday*. The Syriac word *pethurtha* means a looking back or reconciliation. The whole period of the Great Fast is a time of repentance or looking back or reconciliation. It has already been shown that reconciliation is at the root of our faith living. Its ecclesial and sacramental expression is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Hence at least once all should approach this Sacrament during the weeks of the Great Fast.

Fraternal Love

“If anyone says, ‘I love God’, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen”(1 Jn 4,20). The liturgical style of the Syro-Malabar Church always demands that this prescription of St. John be faithfully observed. Emotional imbalance and its results are very common in man. The fasting will help them to come to real resurrection, fighting against enmity, contention, division and so on. We always pray: “Forgive our debts and sins as we also have forgiven our debtors”.

Prayer, Renunciation and Almsgiving

According to the *Mar Thomma Margam*, intensive prayer, sincere renunciation and generous almsgiving are the best expressions of fasting.

During the days of fasting one is encouraged to pray more. In the "Divine Praises", there is provision for that. Besides, one ought to spend more time in personal prayer as well. However it is done, one ought to pray more than usual during the fasting days.

Since *upawasa* is to remain in the presence of the Lord, naturally each of the faithful becomes able to renounce several of his/her personal necessities. It includes food materials or our thinking or actions. During fasting days, the Thomas Christians used to eat anything only after *Ramsa*, the Evening Liturgy. Though not so strict, some kind of renunciation is always good.

Helping others is an important aspect of *upawasa*. It can be either material or intellectual or spiritual help. We must be naturally prone to help our brethren in need. In short, the *upawasa* must make the faithful both God oriented and people oriented. And that must be expressed through prayer, renunciation and almsgiving.

Beginning of Great Fast

The Catholic Church is a communion of Individual Churches. Each Individual Church has its own style of beginning the Great Fast. The Latin Church begins it with the ash service (*Jonah* 3,6). It underlines the external expression of repentance.

The Oriental Churches, however, give emphasis to the internal aspect of fasting. They seem to follow the instruction of our Lord, "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But

when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (*Mt 6,16-18*).

Anointing with Ashes is not Oriental

Anointing with ashes as a sign of beginning the fast is not an Oriental custom. The *Mar Thomma Nazranikal* were compelled to accept it in the so-called synod of Diamper. Now as they are trying to restore their original identity in its wholeness, they are to correct all such deviations from their identity.

The authentic liturgical text of the Syro-Malabar Church for beginning the fast is not yet made available in English for the use of the faithful. This is only a humble attempt to compensate for that. Here we have translated the Syriac and Latin sources and edited them for ordinary use in English.

Approved Style

Although the authentic sources show seven times of prayer a day, the Syro-Malabar Church has accepted today the style of three times of prayer a day. In Great Fast they add a fourth hour of prayer, namely, the *Endana*, the Noon Liturgy. Thus this booklet, **Commencement of the Great Fast**, includes four times of prayer: the Evening Liturgy, the Night Liturgy, the Morning Celebration, which includes the *Sapra* and *Qurbana*, and the Noon Liturgy.

Morning Celebration

The Morning Celebration which is a combination of *Sapra* and *Qurbana* is the special liturgical rite that proclaims the beginning of the Great Fast. This prayer book underlines the Eastern style of beginning the Great Fast without the service of ashes. But provision for the ash service is also given in order to satisfy the need of some who are too much attached to such

rituals. The prayer for blessing the ashes is newly composed according to the liturgical genius of the Syro-Malabar Church. The hymns are also newly composed from the biblical passages, which lead us to fasting and penance.

Family Celebration

It is highly desirable that these prayers for beginning the fast be conducted within the family as well. In Eastern Churches, the “Divine Praises” is also the family prayer. Though not as solemn as in the parish or ashram churches, it may be celebrated becomingly in the family under the leadership of the father or mother of the family: the *Ramsa* before supper, the *Lelya* before going to bed, the *Sapra* with *Karozutha* and *Huttamma* in the early morning and the *Endana* before noon meals. The first day of the Great Fast being a full *upawasa* day, such prayers can really enrich it.

Paschal Mystery

The Great Fast is an occasion that leads us to a deeper experience of the Paschal Mystery. We will not be able to experience the depth of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord unless we try our best to incorporate ourselves fully into the Paschal Mystery through a real involvement in the liturgical celebrations, and thus becoming more and more divine. True mortification and renunciation are very essential for this. The Thomas Christians had beautifully synthesized their cultural, social and religious context to form such an authentic system of fasting. This vision of the Church is sung in one of her liturgical hymns: “The holy fasting in the Church is a tree of life. Its fruits are good for eating and the leaves for medicine. By fasting the mind is enriched in spiritual things... and the body receives a heavenly oil... His body and soul together becomes the house of the living Holy Spirit...”.

Thanks and Prayer

Many people have helped me to complete this work. Their generosity, willingness to help, promptness to serve, and above all their love of the Church are specially to be remembered. Let us all keep them in our prayers.

The help rendered by Rev.Fr.Damon Geiger OSST needs special mention. He, being an oriental religious of the Melkite Rite, having English as his mother tongue and very much involved in the work of translating and compiling the Melkite liturgical texts in English, could really help me in all the phases of its making. Rev. Biju Kunnumpuram CMI has done the DTP work. May the good Lord reward them worthily.

We hope that this prayer book, **Commencement of the Great Fast**, can somehow help the *Mar Thomma Nazranikal* to begin their Great Fast, singing the “Divine Praises” in their own liturgical style.

Prof. Dr. Varghese Pathikulangara cmi
Dharmaram College, Bangalore,
January 6, 2000
The Great Solemnity of the *Denha*

PS. The parts in smaller prints offer a possibility of reducing the length of the services.

EVENING LITURGY

RAMSA (Evening Liturgy)

[When the Divine Praises are celebrated solemnly, the celebrant and other ministers wear the same vestments as in the celebration of the Qurbana. They enter the Bema in procession, turns towards the Sanctuary and make a deep bow to begin the celebration.]

(Athyunnathamam...)

C: Glory be given
unto our God
in the heights of the heavens!

R: Peace be on the earth,
and hope to mankind
for ever and evermore!

(Repeated three times)

OR:

C: Glory to God in the highest!

R: Amen.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

R: Amen.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

R: Amen.

C: And on earth, peace and hope to people at all times
forever.

R: Amen.

(Thuyai...)

C: Heav'nly Father of us all
may Your Name be ever blest;
may Your Kingdom come to all.
Holy, holy are You, Lord!

I: Heav'nly Father of us all,
Your glory fills heav'n and earth.
Men and angels cry aloud:
"Holy, holy are You, Lord!"

II: Heav'nly Father of us all,
may Your Name be ever blest;
may Your will be done on earth
as it always is in heav'n.

I: Grant today the bread we need;
pardon us our debts and sins,
as we have forgiven those
who somehow offended us.

II: Do not let us fall away
when temptation comes to sin
but deliver us always:
save us from the evil one!

I: For the Kingdom, Lord, is Yours,
and the pow-er and glory,
for ever and evermore.
Amen. Evermore. Amen.

C: Glory to the Father be,
Son and Spirit, equally;

from eternity and now
and forevermore. Amen.

I: Heav'nly Father of us all,
Your glory fills heav'n and earth.
Men and angels cry aloud:
"Holy, holy are You, Lord!"

II: Heav'nly Father of us all,
may Your Name be ever blest;
may Your will be done on earth
as it always is in heav'n.

OR:

C: Our Father in heaven,

R: hallowed be Your Name; * Your Kingdom come; *
holy, holy, holy are You. * Our Father in heaven, * heaven
and earth are full of the grandeur of Your glory. * Angels
and men cry out * Holy, holy, holy are You! * Our Father
in heaven, * hallowed be Your Name; * Your Kingdom
come. * Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
Give us this day the bread we need * and forgive us our
debts and sins * as we have forgiven those who offended
us. * Do not let us fall into temptation, * but deliver us
from the evil one. * For Yours is the Kingdom, * the
power and the glory, forever. * Amen.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit.

R: From all eternity and for ever. Amen.

C: Our Father in heaven,

R: hallowed be Your Name; * Your Kingdom come; *
holy, holy, holy are You. * Our Father in heaven, * heaven
and earth are full of the grandeur of Your glory. * Angels
and men cry out: * Holy, holy, holy are You! *

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: We confess Your Divinity, O my Lord, with spiritual praises, and we worship Your Majesty with earthly prostrations, and we glorify Your hidden and transcendent nature with pure and undefiled invocations of glory, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (Ps 17) Hear, O Holy Lord, and consider my supplication!* Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

(community in two choirs) Hear, O Holy Lord, and consider my supplication!* Give ear to my prayer* for it does not come from deceitful lips.

Let my judgement come forth from Your presence;* let Your eyes behold the things that are just.

You have tested my heart;* You have visited me in the night;* You have tried me,* and You have not found any iniquity in me.* Nothing has come out from my mouth* which is according to the deceitful ways of men.

Through the conservation of my lips,* You have kept me from evil ways.

You have strengthened my goings in Your paths,* so that my footsteps have not slipped.

I have called upon You,* and You have heard me;* O God, incline Your ear to me/ and hear my words.

Make Your Holy One a wonder* and a Saviour to those who trust in You;* but let him triumph over those* who rise up against Your right hand.

Keep me as the apple of Your eye;* protect me under the shadow of Your wings.

From the sinners who plunder me,* from the enemies of my soul who surround me.

Silence their mouths,* for they have spoken proudly.

They praised me, but now they have surrounded me;* they have decided to bury me in the ground.

They are like lions that are eager for prey;* and like young lions lurking in hiding.

Arise, O Lord, humble them;* cast them down;* deliver my soul from the wicked and from the sword.

From the dead that die by Your hand, O Lord;* and from the dead who lie in the grave,* divide their possessions among the living;* fill their bellies with Your treasures,* so that their children are satisfied,* and have a portion remaining for their own children.

As for me, in justice I shall behold Your face;* I shall be satisfied when Your worship is restored.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* From all eternity and forever, Amen.

D: Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: We are bound to confess, worship and glorify at all times the great, awesome, holy, blessed, excellent and incomprehensible Name of Your glorious Trinity, and we give thanks for Your blessings to our race, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

[In two choirs, the community sings the hymn of incensing; meanwhile, the celebrant blesses the incense, reciting the prayer in Qurbana celebration; the veil of the sanctuary is opened and the deacon incenses exactly as during the celebration of the Qurbana. When there is no celebrant in sacred orders, the blessing of the incense is omitted.]

Hymn of Incensing

(Bahar Lemba...Misiha Kartave...)

I will always bless the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, mankind's Saviour,
accept in mercy our supplications
like sweet smelling frankincense
which we offer You.

My soul yearned for the courtyard of the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus Christ...

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus Christ...

D: Peace be with us.

C: For every help and grace You have given us, which we
can never repay, we thank You and glorify You
unceasingly in Your Church, crowned like a spouse
and adorned with every gift and blessing, for You are
the Lord and Creator of all, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

R: *(Thuyai...)*

Lord of all, we worship You;
Jesus Christ, we exalt You!
You give life to our bodies
and salvation to our souls!

D: I rejoiced exceedingly when I heard them say: "We are going
to God's house".

R: Lord of all...

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
From all eternity and forever. Amen.

R: Lord of all....

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O my Lord, You are indeed the Giver of life to our bodies, the gracious Saviour of our souls and the constant Preserver of our lives. O my Lord, we are bound always to thank, adore and glorify You, Lord of all, forever.

R: Amen.

Onitha da-Qdam : Hymn Before

(Laika Essal...Evideyolikkum...)

You are a priest forever. (Ps 110, 4)

We adore and bless You, O Lord,

Jesus Christ, our eternal priest!

We praise You always who became
a pure sacrifice for us all.

When at last You come to judge us,
pity us and forgive our sins.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. (Ps 51, 2)

Who will grant to us in this world

tears of repentance to wash clean

our interior soul so that we

may seek heav'nly flowers of virtues.

Eternal, Lord, in Your mercy:

thus in You we seek our refuge.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Wonderful now is your fortune,

Mar Thomma Sliha, blest father.

In the Lord's vineyard, day and night
you laboured long for His glory.
You have gained the heav'nly talents:
pray now that we also reach heav'n.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Our Lord and our God, remembering Your boundless
mercy and continuous providence, we worship and
glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 140*) Lord, I call to You; * hasten to answer me; *
hear my words and accept them.* (*Qanona*) Lord, hear
my words and accept my prayers.

(*Community in alternating groups*) Lord, I call to You; *
hasten to answer me; * hear my words and accept them.

Let my prayer come before You like incense, * and the
gift of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; * a guard at
the door of my lips.

So that my heart may not incline to evil things, * nor
practise wicked deeds with men who work iniquity;* let
me not eat salt with them.

Let the just teach me and reprove me; * let the oil of
the wicked not anoint my head * since my prayer has been
against their evils.

When their judges are stopped by a strong hand, * they
shall hear my words; * for they are sweet.

(*Ps 141*) I cried to the Lord with my voice; * with my
voice, I implored the Lord.

I poured out my complaint before Him; * before Him I declared my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, * then You knew my path. * On the way in which I walked,* they have secretly laid a snare for me.

I looked to my right, and there was no one to advise me; * there is no refuge for me; * no one cared for my soul.

I cried out to You, O Lord; * I said: You are my hope and my portion, O Lord, * in the land of the living.

(Ps 118) Your word is a lamp for my feet * and a light to my path.

I have sworn, and shall carry it out: * I shall keep Your just ordinances.

I am very much afflicted; * O Lord, give me life according to Your word.

Be pleased with the words of my mouth, O Lord; * and teach me Your decrees.

My soul is continually in Your hands; * I do not forget Your law.

Sinners have laid a snare for me; * yet I have not strayed from Your commandments.

(Ps 116) O praise the Lord, all you nations; * acclaim Him, all you people!

Strong is His love for us; * He is faithful for ever. * Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * From all eternity and for ever. Amen.

D: Lord, I call to You; * hasten to answer me; * hear my words and accept them. * (*Qanona*) Lord, hear my words and accept my prayers.

Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, hear the prayers of Your servants and bless us sinners; because You are the Healer of our bodies and Hope of our souls, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Onitha d-Bathar : Hymn After

(Bendan Sapra...Karunanidhiyam...)

In the evening, morning and midday. (*Ps 54, 17*)

May we search for the talents
of Your wisdom, loving Lord,
in the field of Your Gospels.
May we keep oil in the lamp
of our life, and always stand
expecting Your coming, Lord.

O Lord, You are good.

Lord most merciful, our God,
You alone are our refuge.
Pity these, Your servants, who
sadly sail our troubled seas.
Remove all our suf-fer-ings
and grant the new life to us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

According to Your promise
when, Lord, at the end of time
You come in Your great glory,

raise up those who sleep in You
from their tombs with bright bodies;
take them to Yourself in heav'n.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, our God, holy, glorious and eternally blessed:
we adore and praise You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
forever.

R: Amen.

D: Let us raise our voices and praise the living God!

R: (*Thuyai...*)

Holy, holy, holy God!

Holy, holy Mighty One!

Holy and Immortal One:

Lord, have mercy on us all!

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R: Holy, holy...

D: From all eternity and forever. Amen.

R: Holy, holy...

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Holy God, glorious and mighty; O Immortal One, who
dwell in the holy ones in whom You are well pleased,
we entreat You: look upon us, O my Lord; pardon us
and have mercy on us as You are accustomed to, at all
times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
forever.

R: Amen.

D: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Evangelion: Gospel (Mt. 5, 17-37)

[Incensing and other rituals are exactly as they are in the celebration of the Qurbana.]

Karozutha: Proclamation Prayer**I**

D: Let us all stand with repentance and earnestness and let us pray, saying: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Our Saviour, who obtains our salvation and provides all things, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For the peace, harmony and stability of the whole world and of all the Churches, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For our country, for all countries, and for the faithful that dwell therein, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For a temperate climate, for a plentiful harvest, an abundance of fruits and for the prosperity of the whole world, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For the well being of our Holy Father, Pope Mar (Name), head of all the Churches of Christ, our Major Archbishop, Mar (Name), our Archbishop, Mar (Name), our Bishop, Mar (Name) and for all their fellow ministers, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For the governments and rulers of this world, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Compassionate God, who governs all things with tender mercy, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For orthodox priests and deacons and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You are rich in mercy and plentiful in goodness; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You exist before all worlds, and Your power abides forever; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You are by nature good, and from You all good things come; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You do not wish the sinner to die, but rather that he repent of his wickedness and live; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You are glorified in heaven and worshipped on earth; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: By Your holy Resurrection, You make the earth rejoice and the heavens be glad; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You are by nature immortal and dwell in resplendent Light; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe in You, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Save us, O Christ our Lord, through Your grace; fill us with Your peace and tranquillity and have mercy on us:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

II

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us. Let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all:

R: Amen.

D: For the holy catholic Church here and in all other places, that He would make His peace and tranquillity dwell in it until the end of the world, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That our fathers, the bishops, lead their flock without any fault or blemish all their life time, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Particularly for the health of our holy fathers - the Pope, our Major Archbishop, our Archbishop, and our Bishop - that He may protect and make them stand at the head of all their folds in order to nourish, serve and prepare the people for the Lord, making them zealous in doing pleasing and good works, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That all priests and deacons who participate in the service of the true Faith may minister in His presence

with pure hearts and clear conscience, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: For all the religious men and women, the children of the holy catholic Church, that they may complete their course in holiness and receive the awaited promise from the Lord in His Kingdom of Life, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering the blessed, holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, our Saviour and the Giver of Life, that the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her may sanctify us in His lovingkindness, perfect His work in us and seal in us His truth all the days of our life, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering the prophets and apostles, martyrs and confessors, that by their prayers and sufferings, He may grant us also great hope and salvation along with them, and make us worthy to celebrate their blessed memory and to inherit their true and living promise in the Kingdom of heaven, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering our holy fathers, Mar Gregory, Mar Basil and Mar John, Bishops and Teachers of the truth; Mar Jacob and Mar Aprem and all the holy priests and teachers of the truth, that by their prayers and petitions, the pure truth of their instructions and their confession of the faith may be kept in the whole

catholic Church until the end of the world, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, the faithful who died and left this world in the true faith and orthodox confession, that He may remit and forgive them their debts and sins, and make them worthy to rejoice with the just and holy ones who pleased Him in their lives, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: For this country and its inhabitants, for this town (village) and those who dwell herein, for this house and those who care for it and especially for this community, that in His grace, He would keep far from us war, captivity, robbery, earthquakes, famine, epidemics and all the afflictions harmful to the body, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: For those who have fallen away from the true Faith and those who are trapped in the snares of Satan, that He may remove the hardness of their hearts and that they may come to know the one, true God, the Father of truth, and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: For those who are seriously ill and are tempted by evil spirits, that in His great mercy and kindness He may send the angel of health and mercy to them, visit them, heal them, help and console them, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: For the poor, the needy, the orphans, the widows, the oppressed, the afflicted, and those suffering in spirit in this world, that He may strengthen them in His grace, provide for them in His mercy, comfort them in His compassion, and deliver them from those who abuse them, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Pray and entreat God, the Lord of all, that you become a kingdom of priests and a holy people for Him. Pray to the mighty Lord God with your whole heart and soul, for He is God the merciful Father, kind and benevolent. He does not want His creatures to perish, but that they should repent and live. It is most fitting that we pray to, confess, worship, glorify, honour and exalt the one God, the adorable Father, the Lord of all. In His Christ, He has given hope and salvation to our souls, that He may fulfill in us His grace, mercy and compassion until the end.

R: Amen.

III

D: Through prayer and supplication, for an angel of peace and mercy, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: For a lasting peace for the Churches, and a life without sin, all through our life, by day and by night, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: For the remission of sins, and for those things, which help our life and are well pleasing to Your Divinity, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: For Your constant mercy and loving kindness at all times, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: Let us commend ourselves and one another to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

R: To You, O Lord our God.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, mighty God, to You we commend our body and soul; from You we ask the forgiveness of our debts and sins, O our Lord and our God. Grant us this in Your goodness and mercy as You are accustomed to at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: Bless, O my Lord. Let us bow down our heads for the imposition of hands and receive the blessing.

C: Lord our God, let us all who deeply believe in Your glorious Trinity be united in love and be made worthy to praise and honour, thank and adore You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Onitha d-Ramsa : *Evening Hymn*

(Brihithon...Karthavil Jnan...)

The mercy of the Lord is forever. (Ps 25, 6)

God's mercy appeared

in this fallen world
and gave life to men.
The Lord asks us to renounce
the desire for evil things,
living as saints in this world
which shall quickly pass away.
For our Lord – will soon come again!

He will judge the world with righteousness. (*Ps 96, 13*)

O Christ, the great King,
enlightening the world:
protect Your blest Church!
Satan always stands intent
to arrange Your servants' fall.
Let Your holy Apostles
who once sowed the Gospel's seeds
in this world – intercede for us.

You heal the pure and remove their pains.

The priests are known as
healing physicians
in the Church of God.
They distribute medicine
in the Church and through its acts.
Let those wounded by sin come
to them in humility.
Let them all – sing praises to God!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Through Your holy Cross,
save us all, O Christ,
our Saviour and King.
In Your fortress of mercy,

protect us that we be saved
and freed from the evil one
who fights always against us.
Destroy, then, - all of Satan's snares!

Surraya: Responsorial Psalm

D: (*Ps 86, 8-11*) There is none like You, O Lord, my God;*
neither are there any works like Your works.*
Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

(*In two choirs*) There is none like You, O Lord, my
God;* neither are there any works like Your works.

All the nations whom You have made* shall come
and worship before You, O Lord,* and shall glorify Your
name.

For You are great, and do wondrous things;* You are
God alone.

Show me Your way, O Lord;* I will walk in the
truth;* my heart will rejoice with them* that worship Your
name.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit.* From all eternity and forever. Amen.

D: Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

C: Our Father in heaven....(*as at the beginning*)

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, You open the door of mercy to those who knock
and hear those who call upon You. Bless us with a
peaceful and quiet evening, a comfortable night, a
hopeful daybreak and a day filled with good works.

Help us to please You all the days of our life, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

D-'Udrana

[From the following prayers of Udrana (Help), as many as are needed are selected. When there are several priests in the community, one after another, they each recite one.]

P1: O Lord, let the help of Your mercy, the support of Your grace, the hidden and glorious strength of your glorious Trinity, and Your right hand, full of mercy and kindness, overshadow and accompany the weakness of Your worshippers from Your holy house, which is full of all help and blessings, through the prayers of the blessed Lady Mary and of all the Saints who entreat You, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P2: O our Lord and our God, may Your servants be blessed by Your blessing, and those who worship You be protected by the providence of Your will. O Lord, may the perpetual peace of Your Divinity and the enduring tranquillity of Your Majesty reign over Your people and in Your Church all the days of the world, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P3: May the blessing of the One who blesses all, the peace of the One who brings peace to all, the compassion of the One who shows mercy to all, and the protection of our adorable God be with us, among us and around us, and keep us from the evil one and his hosts at all seasons and times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P4: O our Lord and our God, may we be blessed by Your blessing and preserved by Your care. May Your power come to our support. May Your help accompany us. May Your right hand overshadow us. May Your peace reign among us. May Your Cross be a high fortress and refuge for us, and under its wings may we be protected

from the evil one and his hosts, at all seasons and times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P5: O my Lord, blessed are the mercies of Your loving kindness, and adorable are the promises of Your Majesty, which instruct us always to look to You and to glory in You, and not to cease from hoping in You all the days of our life, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P6: O our Lord and our God, may Your blessing rest upon Your people, and may Your compassion be upon us, weak and sinful though we be; You are our good Hope and source of refuge, full of mercy, and You forgive sins and debts, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P7: May the peace of the Father be with us, and the love of the Son be among us; and may the Holy Spirit lead us according to His will; and let His mercies and compassion be upon us at all seasons and times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P8: O my Lord, may Your peace dwell within us, Your tranquillity rule in us and Your love increase among us all the days of our lives, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P9: O my Lord, keep us with Your right hand and protect us beneath Your wings; and may Your help accompany us all the days of our lives, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P10: O my Lord, grant us Your constant peace, love, desire for knowledge, life, blessings, joys and unfailing sustenance all the days of our lives, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P11: Be a vigilant protector to the fold in which Your sheep dwell, that they may not be harmed by the wolves thirsting for the blood of Your flock, for You are an unfailing Ocean, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P12: O our Lord, bless us with Your blessing and surround us with the wall of Your care; deprive us not of Your good things, and make us recline at table in the bridal chamber of light, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P13: O my Lord, come to our help in Your compassion, and appear for our salvation in Your mercy, and make us walk in the way of justice all the days of our lives, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P14: O my Lord, may Your lovingkindness shine upon us when Your justice judges us; and may Your mercy come to our aid on the day on which Your greatness dawns, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

P15: May Your blessing and grace, and Your right hand full of mercy and compassion descend upon and remain with those who worship You, call upon You and entreat You at all seasons and times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

C: Lord, may the hidden power, infinite blessing and unceasing help of Your glorious Trinity be given to us. May the prayer of the holy Virgin Mary, *Mar Yawsep* and the blessed Apostles, the intercession of our Father *Mar Thomma Sliha*, *Mar Giwargis* and the other martyrs, of the patron (*patroness*) of this church, of the confessors and all the Saints, help us. May these be our refuge, help and protection from the evil one and all his army and lead us to eternal happiness, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

[If a Bishop or Priest leads the Divine Praises, he recites the *Huttamma* facing the faithful and seals them with the sign of the Cross at its end.]

Huttamma: Sealing Prayer

C: God, Lord of all, You are ordering the whole world; May Your Name be blessed; may Your right hand of mercy overshadow on us, sinners and weaklings, and on the whole creation. May this season of Great Fast, which we are beginning today become fruitful and enriching through the grace of Your mercy. Help us to be always with You. May we and our brethren know, love and praise You more and more, now + and always and forever.

R: Amen.

LELYA
(Night Liturgy)

[The Sanctuary remains veiled; the candles on either side of the St. Thomas Cross on the Bema are lit.]

["Glory to God..." and "Our Father..." are sung or recited as at the beginning, pp 1...]

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Our Lord and our God, may the sound of our Alleluias and the melodies of our songs be pleasing to You; accept from us in Your lovingkindness the fruits of our lips, which we offer in praise of Your glorious Trinity, night and day, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

C: O God our Saviour, it is right and fitting to begin to praise You with a thankful heart and to sing Your glories with the angels.

D: (Ps 3) O Lord, how my oppressors have increased! * Many are they who rise up against me!

[In two choirs] (Qanona) As I spoke about Your truth, O our Lord, * the wicked rose against me. * Save me from their attack!

Many there are who say to my soul: * You have no salvation in your God.

But You, O Lord, are my help and my glory, * and You lift up my head.

I have cried out with my voice to the Lord * and He has answered me from His holy mountain.

I lay down and slept; * and I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

I will not be afraid of the thousands of people * that have surrounded me and set themselves against me.

Arise, O Lord my God, and save me; * for You have struck all my enemies on their faces; * You have broken the teeth of the wicked!

For salvation is from the Lord! * And Your blessing is upon Your people!

(Qanona) As I spoke about Your truth, O our Lord, * the wicked rose against me. * Save me from their attack!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * From all eternity and forever. Amen.

C: O God our Saviour, it is right and fitting to praise You with a thankful heart and sing Your glories with the angels.

D: Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord* who by night stand in the house of the Lord, bless the Lord.

(Community in two choirs)
(Breek Hannana...Isonathan...)

The devotees pray and keep watch,* sleepless in their nightlong vigils.

Choirs of heaven join with them:* watchers, angels and fire-bearers.

With loud voices they shout and cry* Alleluias to the Son of God.

The victorious Christ, the great King,* is praised always by endless hymns.

D: *(Ps 133)* Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,* who by night stand in the house of the Lord, bless the Lord.

[In two choirs] (Qanona) O God our Saviour, it is fitting* that the saints always praise You.

Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,* who by night stand in the house of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary,* and bless the Lord.

The Lord bless you out of Zion,* even He who made heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* From all eternity and forever. Amen.

(*Qanona*) O God our Saviour, it is fitting* that the saints always praise You.

*[Community in two choirs]
(Breek Hannana...Isonathan...)*

Cherubim and Seraphim sing* and exalt Him unceasingly.
Jesus, Lord, eternal, holy,* none is like You, exalted King!
Heaven and earth join in their choirs* to bless You, O
Lord of heaven!

You came to the world and saved us* through the pow'r of
Your holy Cross!

Hope of lasting bliss You gave us,* and we always sing
Your praises.

Glory be to God the Father,* the Son and the Holy Spirit!
It is right that choirs of heaven* and the earth should
praise You always.

His almighty voice has called us* to wake us from the
sleep of sin.

With the choirs that praise You always,* we now join to
sing Your glory.

Join us to Your holy glory;* take from us all our debts and
sins.

We now bless You for You call us* every day to rise from
the sleep.

O Lord, who grant new life to us,* in our hymns, we sing
Your praises!

D: Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: O my Lord, who awaken the sleeping, lift up the fallen,
comfort the suffering and forgive sinners: O refuge
of the repentant, we pray to You. Awaken us in Your
mercy, and make us worthy to serve You in diligence

and holiness. We praise You together with the heavenly spirits who are always blessing You and the Seraphim who sing to You the thrice-holy hymn, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 18*) I will love You, O Lord,* my strength and my trust!

[*In two choirs*] (*Qanona*) Heaven and earth and all within them,* kneel and worship God, their Creator.

I will love You, O Lord,* my strength and my trust!

My fortress and my deliverer* is the mighty God in whom I trust;* He is my helper and the horn of my salvation* and my glorious refuge.

I will call upon the Lord;* and I shall be saved from my enemies.

For the pains of death surrounded me,* and the flood of wicked men has overwhelmed me.

The bonds of Sheol have taken hold of me;* the snares of death fell upon me.

In my distress, I called upon the Lord, and cried to God.* From His temple, He heard my voice;* and my cry came before Him,* it reached His ears.

Then the earth shook and trembled;* the foundations of the mountains also quaked;* they were shaken because He was angry.

The smoke rose up from His wrath;* and fire flamed from His face;* and coals were kindled into flame by it.

He bowed the heavens and came down;* and thick darkness was under His feet.

And He rode upon the Cherubim and flew;* yes, He soared upon the wings of the wind.

He made darkness His cover;* the cloak around Him was the darkness of the waters* and the thick clouds of the skies.

From the brightness of His shadow,* His clouds rained down hailstones and coals of fire.

The Lord also thundered from the heavens,* and the Most High gave forth His voice:* hailstones and coals of fire.

Yes, He sent forth His arrows and scattered them;* and He multiplied His lightning bolts and confused them.

Then the bed of the sea appeared,* and the foundations of the world were laid open* at Your rebuke, O Lord,* at the blast of the breath of Your anger!

He sent down from on high and comforted me;* He took me out of the deep waters.

He delivered me from my strong enemies,* and from those who hated me;* for they were too strong for me.

They attacked me on the day of my disaster;* but the Lord was my deliverer.

He brought me forth into safety;* He delivered me because He was pleased with me.

The Lord rewarded me according to my justice;* according to the cleanness of my hands, He repaid me.

For I have kept the ways of the Lord,* and have not rebelled against my God.

For all His decrees were before me;* and His laws I did not put away from me.

And I was also blameless in His sight,* and I carefully kept myself from my sins.

Therefore, the Lord has repaid me according to my justice,* according to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.

With the pure, You shall be pure;* with an upright man, You shall be upright.

With the clean, You shall be clean;* and from the crooked, You shall turn away.

For You will save the afflicted people;* but You will humble the proud.

For You shall light my lamp;* the Lord my God will give light to my darkness.

For with Your help, I have pursued a band of robbers;* and with the help of my God, I leaped over the fence.

As for God, His ways are perfect;* the word of the Lord is pure:* He is a help to all those who trust in Him.

For there is no God except the Lord;* and there is no one who is as mighty as our God.

It is God who girds me with strength,* and makes my way secure.

He makes my feet as those of deer,* and sets me upon high places.

He trains my hands for war;* and He strengthens my arms like a brass bow.

You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;* and Your right hand has held me up;* and Your training has made me great.

You have steadied my legs under me,* so that my steps would not be weakened.

I will pursue my enemies and overtake them;* and I will not turn back until they are destroyed.

I will strike them so that they may not be able to stand;* they shall fall under my feet.

For You have girded me with strength for the battle;* You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

You have also defeated my enemies before me,* that I might silence those who hate me.

They shall cry out, but there will be no one to save them;* they shall beg the Lord, but He will not answer them.

Then I will grind them as small as the dust before the wind;* I shall trample upon them like the mud of the streets.

You will deliver me from the plans of the people;* and You will make me the leader of the nations;* a people whom I have not known shall serve me.

As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me;* strangers shall submit themselves to me.

Strangers shall halt* and shall be hindered from walking in their paths.

The Lord lives!* Blessed be the One who gives me strength!* Let my God and my Saviour be exalted!

It is God who avenges me* and subdues the people under me.

He delivered me from my enemies;* yes, You exalted me above those who rise up against me;* You have delivered me from the lawless man.

Therefore, I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the nations,* and I will sing praises to Your Name.

He gives great victory to His king,* and shows mercy to His anointed,* to David and to his descendants forevermore.

(*Qanona*) Heaven and earth and all within them,* kneel and worship God, their Creator.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* From all eternity and forever. Amen.

D: Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: Our Lord and our God, Treasury of all helps, Source of all goodness, and Ocean of mercy and compassion; look upon us and have mercy on us as You are accustomed to at all times, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Onitha' d-Lelya': Night Anthem

(*Pus Baslama...Vidavangunnen...*)

Blessed be he who enters in the name of the Lord (*Ps 117, 26*)

Blest *upawasa* – which gives true life
has come in its – royal attire.

Let's all become – beautiful like

He-avenly ones – through *upawasa*.

He shall come with shouts (*Ps 126, 6*)

Let us cleanse all – ways of our heart,
repent truly – shedding tears;
turn it back to – God our dear Lord.
He will pardon – when we repent.

Those who desire life, let them approach Him with praises.

Let us meditate – on the Scriptures
and the Prophets – who guide us all.
Let them give us – salvific fruits
so that we may – find salvation.

My days are like an evening shadow (*Ps 102, 11*)

Days and nights in – everyone's life
pass by speed'ly – death comes very soon.
We have become – wicked indeed,
Lord, have mercy – on us sinners.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Wash us clean from – sins and our debts
Lord of mercy, - You are our God.
Let us enter – heavenly Kingdom
Sing Your glory – with all angels.

(B-Endan Sapra...Karunanidhiyam...)

Full of mercy, You, our Lord,
look with favour upon us,
we who are Your own people.
You know well, O Lord our God,
the oppression of our foes:
pour forth Your grace upon us.

Sea of mercy, You, our Lord,
protect us, Your children, well
from all those who exploit us;

let the truth be our weapon
and it shall be our fortress
that we may sing Your glory.

O Lord Jesus, sow Your peace
in this world of disorder
through the prayers of Mary.
Remove from this world, O Lord,
armament and enmity
that we bless her with one voice.

Lord Jesus, may Your prophets,
Apostles and Church-fathers,
Doctors and Martyrs for faith,
pray for us that with one voice
we may sing with all of them,
praising Your great Majesty.

India's Sliha, Mar Thomma,
intercede now for us all,
with our Lord and God, Jesus,
that your children may enjoy
bliss of promised adoption
in the Kingdom at your side.

He (*She*) who gained a rich reward
working with true joy and love
in the vineyard of the Lord.

May his (*her*) supplications bring
to this parish (*ashram / bhavan /*
household) of us all

God's blessing and His mercy.

Recall not our many sins,
we who received Your Body
and have drunk from Your chalice.

On that day when You judge us,
may Your mercy raise us up
with all those who welcome You.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O Lord, to Your hidden Nature which is incomprehensible and transcends the design and understanding of all creatures, glory is fitting and hymns of praise are proper; Worship is just and due from all whom You have created and formed in heaven and on earth, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Subbaha: Psalm of Praise

D: (*Ps 12*) Save, O Lord!* For there are now no more upright men;* for faith has disappeared from the earth* Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

(*In two choirs*) Save, O Lord!* For there are now no more upright men;* for faith has disappeared from the earth.

Everyone speaks falsehood to his neighbour;* they speak with flattering lips* and with a double heart.

The Lord shall destroy all flattering lips* and tongues that speak proud things.

For they have said:* With our tongue, we shall prevail;* our lips are our own;* who is lord over us?

Because of the oppression of the poor* and the groans of the needy,* now will I arise, says the Lord;* and I will bring salvation openly.

The words of the Lord are pure words;* as silver tried in a furnace on earth,* they are purified seven times.

You shall keep them, O Lord!* You shall preserve me* and save me from this generation forever.

For the wicked walk everywhere with contemptible pride* like the children of Edom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* From all eternity and forever, Amen.

D: Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

Tesbohta: Hymn of Praise

(Breek Hannana...Isonathan...)

Praise be to You always, O Lord!* Praise to You always and ever!

Day and night, O Lord, praise to You!* O our Lord, have mercy on us!

You forgive our debts and sins, Lord!* Have mercy on these Your servants!

Save us by destroying Satan* who sets snares for us, Your servants!

Put the wicked one to great shame* through Your Cross that gives us life!

Sea of mercy, cast not away* those whom You have made by Your hands.

Lord, let Your life-giving Cross be* a strong fortress and help to us!

Father, only God, eternal,* You have given Your Son to us!

Praise to You, O Son, our Saviour!* Homage to the Holy Spirit!

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: From You, full of mercy and kindness, and from the great riches of Your gentle charity and from the overflowing treasure of Your kindness, we ask help and salvation, protection and healing for the pains of our bodies and souls; grant us these in Your grace and mercy as You are accustomed to at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

C: Blessed and adored, high and exalted and incomprehensible are the eternal mercies of Your glorious Trinity, who freely has compassion on sinners; O our good Hope and Refuge full of mercy, who forgive our debts and sins, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

(In two choirs)

(Thuyai...)

Praise to You, O Christ, our Lord:
for You have instructed us
how through use of holy fasting
to defeat the wicked one.

(Repeat)

(Ps 86, 1-2) Incline Your ear, O Lord;* hear me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my soul, for You are holy;* O You God, save Your servant* who trusts in You.

Praise to You, O Christ, our Lord:

..... (Repeat)

(Ps 86, 15-16) But You, O Lord God, are full of compassion and gracious,* longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and truth.

O turn to me and have mercy upon me;* give strength to Your servant,* and save the son of Your handmaid.

Praise to You, O Christ, our Lord:

..... (Repeat)

(Ps 60, 10-11) For behold, O God, You had cast us off,* and You did not go before us with our armies.

Give us strength against our enemies;* for vain is the help of man.

Praise to You, O Christ, our Lord:

.....(Repeat)

Engarta: Epistle of the day : Rom. 1, 1-25

Karozutha: Proclamation Prayer

D: Let us stand with repentance and earnestness and let us pray, saying: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Lord of Powers, eternal and exalted above all, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You who loved us with infinite love and created us in Your image, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You who, in Your mercy, filled Abraham with all kinds of gifts and illumined Your Church by the revelation of Your Anointed One, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You who never desire the destruction of our race, but eagerly look for our return from the darkness of ignorance, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You who are our Creator, the only Designer of all creatures, and who dwell in great glory, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For the well-being of our Holy Father, Pope Mar (*name*), head of all the Churches of Christ, and our Major Archbishop, Mar (*name*), and our Archbishop, Mar (*name*), and our Bishop, Mar (*name*), and for all their fellow-ministers, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Compassionate God, who governs all things with tender mercy, we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You are glorified in heaven and worshipped on earth; we implore You.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: O Christ our Lord, make us victorious at Your glorious second coming. Give peace to the Church, redeemed by Your precious Blood, and have mercy on us all.

R: Amen

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Merciful Lord, we thank You for all the graces and blessings You have given us. Forgive us all the sins we have committed in thought, word, deed and negligence; stretch out Your hands and bless us, Your

children, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

SAPRA - QURBANA

(Morning Liturgy)

[Priests and the ministers vest themselves as for the Qurbana, enter the Bema in procession, stand facing the sanctuary and make a deep bow. The sanctuary remains veiled. The candles on both sides of the St. Thomas Cross on the Bema are lit]

Glory to God...(as at the beginning, pp. 1...)

D: Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: May the adorable and glorious Name of Your blessed Trinity be worshipped, glorified, honoured, exalted, confessed and blessed in heaven and on earth at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (Ps. 103) Bless the Lord, O my soul;* and all that is within me,* bless His holy Name.

[In two choirs] (Qanona) God our Saviour, help us;* because of Your holy Name forgive our sins.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;* and all that is within me,* bless His holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,* and forget not all His benefits.

Who forgives all your iniquities,* who heals all your diseases.

Who redeems your life from destruction,* who crowns you with lovingkindness* and tender mercies.

Who satisfies your mouth with good things,* so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness and judgement* for all that are oppressed.

He made known His ways to Moses,* His acts to the children of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,* slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.

He will not always chide;* neither will he retain His anger forever.

He has not dealt with us after our sins,* nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,* so great is His mercy* toward them that revere Him.

As far as the east is from the west,* so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As the father pities his children,* so the Lord pities those who worship Him.

For He knows whereof we are made;* He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass;* as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

For when the wind passes over it, it is gone;* and the place thereof is known no more.

But the mercy of the Lord* is from everlasting to everlasting* upon them that reverence Him,* and His righteousness to children's children.

To such as keep His covenant,* and to those that remember His commandments to do them.

The Lord has prepared His throne in the heavens,* and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you His angels,* that excel in strength,* that do His commandments,* hearkening to the voice of His word.

Bless you the Lord, all you His hosts;* you ministers of His that do His pleasure.

Bless the Lord, all His works,* in all places of His dominion;* bless the Lord, O my soul.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* From all eternity and forever, Amen.

D: (*Qanona*) God our Saviour help us;* because of Your holy Nmae, forgive our sins.

Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: Lord, all creatures praise and worship You with rejoicing, for You have created them by Your infinite and incomprehensible mercy and You provide for them in miraculous ways, Source of all creation and Protector of our souls, Lord and God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 100*) Make a joyful sound to the Lord, all you lands.

* (*Qanona*) Lord, the Giver of light, we praise You!

(*In alternating groups*) Make a joyful sound to the Lord, all you lands. * Serve the Lord with gladness;* come before Him with singing.

Know that He is the Lord our God; * it is He who has made us, * and not we ourselves; * we are His people, * the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, * and into His courts with praise. * Give thanks to Him and bless His Name!

For the Lord is good; * His mercy is everlasting;* and His truth endures to all generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * From all eternity and forever. Amen.

D: Make a joyful sound to the Lord, all you lands. *
(*Qanona*) Lord, the Giver of light, we praise You!
Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, we worship You and praise Your holy Name; for You are the Lord and Creator of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 91*) He who dwells in the protection of the Most High * shall abide in the shade of the Almighty. *
(*Qanona*) Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, blessed are those who hope in You!

(*In alternating groups*) He who dwells in the protection of the Most High * shall abide in the shade of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord: * He is my refuge and my fortress, * my God in whom I will trust.

Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, * and from vain gossip.

He will cover you with His pinions, * and under His wings you shall trust; * His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not fear the terror of the night, * nor the arrow that flies by day.

Nor the conspiracy that spreads in the darkness;* nor the pestilence that lays waste at noon.

Thousands shall fall at your side, * and ten thousand at your right; * but it shall not come near you.

You shall have only to behold with your eyes * the reward of the wicked.

For You, O Lord, are my trust; * You have established Your dwelling in the heights.

No evil shall befall you, * nor shall any plague come near to your dwelling.

For He shall give His angels charge over you * to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you up in their hands, * lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the viper and adder; * you shall trample under foot the lion and the great serpent.

Because he has loved Me, I will deliver him; * I will set him on high * because He has known My Name.

He shall call upon Me * and I will answer him; * I shall be with him in trouble; * I will deliver him and honour him.

With long life I will satisfy him, * and show him My salvation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * From all eternity and for ever. Amen.

D: He who dwells in the protection of the Most High * shall abide in the shade of the Almighty.* (*Qanona*) Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, blessed are those who hope in You!

Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, Your providence is most praiseworthy. Those who depend on You and call upon Your Name in prayer will never be disappointed, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 104*) Bless the Lord, O my soul! * (*Qanona*) O God, glory is fitting to Your great Name.

(*In alternating groups*) Bless the Lord, O my soul! * O Lord, my God, You are very great! * You are clothed with honour and majesty!

You are robed in light as with a cloak; * You stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

You lay the beams of Your chambers upon the waters; * You make the clouds Your chariot; * You walk upon the wings of the wind.

You make Your angels spirits, * Your ministers are flaming fire.

You laid the foundations of the earth, * so that it should never be moved.

You covered it with deep sea as with a garment; * the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; * at the voice of Your thunder, they hastened away.

The mountains rose up, * the valleys descend to the place which You had fixed for them.

You have set up a boundary that they may not pass, * lest they cover the earth.

You have sent forth springs into the valleys, * which run down among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; * the wild asses quench their thirst.

By them, the birds of the heavens have their dwelling; * from among the hills, they sing.

You water the hills from Your chambers; * the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, * and herbs for the service of man, * that he may bring forth food from the earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* From all eternity and forever, Amen.

D: Bless the Lord, O my soul!* (*Qanona*) O God, glory is fitting to Your great Name.

Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: Creator of all that move and the Regulator of all things above and below, we praise, honour, adore and render thanks to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 113*) Praise the Lord. * Praise, O you servants of the Lord, * (*Qanona*) Glory to the One who created the light!

(*In two choirs*) Praise the Lord. * Praise, O you servants of the Lord, * praise the Name of the Lord.*

Blessed be the Name of the Lord * from this time forth and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the Lord's Name is great.

The Lord is high above all nations, * and His glory is above the heavens.

Who is like to the Lord our God, who dwells on high,
Yet beholds the things that are in the deep, in heaven and on earth!

He raises up the poor out of the dunghill,
That He may set him with the princes of the people.

He makes the barren woman to keep house, * and to be a joyful mother of children. * Praise the Lord.* (*Qanona*) Glory to the One who created the light!

(Ps 93) The Lord reigns; * He is clothed with majesty!* (*Qanona*)
Lord our God we worship You.

The Lord reigns! * He is clothed with majesty!

The Lord is clothed with strength, * with which He has girded
Himself.

The world is also established, * so that it cannot be moved.

Your throne stands firm of old; * You are from everlasting!

The rivers are flowing full, O Lord! * The rivers have lifted up
their voice. * The rivers are flowing with purity.

The Lord on high is mightier than the roar of many waters. * Yes,
more powerful than the mighty waves of the sea.

Your decrees are very trustworthy. * Holiness is fitting to Your
house, O Lord, for ever!* (*Qanona*) Lord our God, we worship You.

(Ps 148) Praise the Lord! * Praise the Lord from the heavens! *
Praise Him in the heights!* (*Qanona*) Let all praise God.

Praise Him, all His angels! * Praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun and moon! * Praise Him, all stars and light!

Praise Him, heavens of heavens, * and waters that are above the
heavens!

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, * for He spoke and they
were made; * He commanded, and they were created!

He has also established them for ever and ever! * He has made a
decree which shall not pass.* (*Qanona*) Let all praise God.

Praise the Lord from the earth, * you great serpents and all
deeps,* (*Qanona*) You all praise God.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, * stormy wind fulfilling His word.

Mountains and all hills, * fruitful trees and all cedars,

Wild beasts and all cattle, * creeping things and flying birds,

Kings of the earth and all people, * princes and all judges of the
earth,

Young men and maidens, * old men and youths; * let them praise
the Name of the Lord!

For His Name alone is exalted; * His glory is on earth and in
heaven.* (*Qanona*) You all praise God.

(Ps 149) Praise the Lord! * Sing to the Lord a new song, * and
His praise in the assembly of the Saints.* (*Qanona*) Glory is fitting to
Him.

Let Israel rejoice in Him who made him; * let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise His Name with the timbrel and lute; * let them sing praises to Him with the harps.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; * He has given salvation to the poor.

Let the righteous become mighty in glory; * let them glorify Him upon their beds.

Let them exalt God with their throats, * and with a two-edged sword in their hand,

To execute vengeance upon the nations, * and punishments upon the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters * and their nobles with chains of iron.

To execute upon them the judgment that is written; * and give glory to all His Saints. * Praise the Lord!* (*Qanona*) O Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

(*Ps 150*) Praise the Lord! * Praise God in His holy place! * Praise Him in the mighty heavens!* (*Qanona*) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise Him for His powerful deeds! * Praise His surpassing greatness!

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet! * Praise Him with lute and harp!

Praise Him with timbrel and dance! * Praise Him with strings and pipes!

Praise Him with resounding cymbals! * Praise Him with clashing of cymbals!

Let everything that lives and breathes give praise to the Lord! * Praise the Lord!* (*Qanona*) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

(*Ps 116*) O praise the Lord, all you nations; * acclaim Him, all you peoples!

Strong is His love for us; * He is faithful for ever. *
Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit. * From all eternity and for ever. Amen.

D: Let us praise the Lord with every breath! * We praise
You, Jesus Christ, the Light!

*[The community now sings the hymn in honour of the Cross and all kiss
the Cross as in the Raza celebration]*

*(In two choirs)
(Sliba dahava lan)*

D: Because in it* our hearts rejoice* and we are made---
glad.

R: The Cross is the cause of our good* and has set us
free.* May it be for us, O my Lord, a strong fortress.*
By this Cross, we shall overcome the most wicked
one and all his cunning snares.

D: For we have hoped* and placed our trust* in its holy--
- Name.

R: The Cross is the cause.....(Repeat)

D: All glory be* to Father and Son* and Holy Spi---rit.

R: O our Saviour, in Your mercy* sanctify Your
Church.* May grace dwell in the Church* dedicated
to You.* Set in it Your holy altar upon which* Your
Body and Blood are sacrificed.

D: From ages past* forever more* and ever. A---men.

R: O Lord, who out of Your mercy* promised Your
servants* that all who ask shall receive and* all who

search shall find,* we beseech You for Your strength and aid* to fulfill Your holy will by all our deeds.

D: Let people say* and all proclaim:* Amen and A---men.

R: The Cross is the cause.....(Repeat)

(The hymn is sung until the veneration of the Cross is finished. The first deacon takes the Cross back to its place.)

[One of the deacons brings the thurible and incense to the celebrant, who puts incense into the thurible and blesses it with the following prayer.]

C: May this incense, which we offer in Your honour, be blessed in the Name of Your most Holy Trinity. May it be most pleasing to You and obtain the remission of our debts for us who are the sheep of Your flock, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, forever. Amen.

[When there is the service of Ash , it is blessed with the following prayer formula and the anointing with it is done singing the hymns in the Appendix]

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Holy Trinity, our God, You are the Creator and Lord, God of the human race. You are the Giver of all spiritual gifts. You grant us salvation. We adore, praise and thank You. Send forth Your Holy Spirit to set aside + , bless + , and sanctify + this ash and fill it with heavenly power. Let all who use it be touched by that power. Let this anointing with ash be a sign that we renounce all earthly realities and pleasures so that we may come closer to You and remain in You. O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are the One

who bless and sanctify all things. We offer You praise, honour, thanksgiving and worship now + and always and forever.

R: Amen

[The celebrant then sprinkles the ash with holy water and incenses it. Then he anoints the faithful on their foreheads in the form of a cross. Meanwhile the community sings the Hymns in the Appendix in two choirs.]

D: Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: For every help and grace You have given us, which we can never recompense, we thank You and glorify You unceasingly in Your Church, crowned like a spouse and filled with every help and blessing, for You are the Lord and Creator of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

[When the community begins the hymn "Lord of all..." the sanctuary veil is opened and the deacon incenses the sanctuary, altar and nave with the people as usual]

(Thuyai...)

R: Lord of all, we worship You;
Jesus Christ, we exalt You!
You give life to our bodies
and salvation to our souls!

D: Lord, at daybreak I come to You prepared; hear my prayers.

R: Lord of all...

D: To show Your grace in the morning, and Your faithfulness during the night.

R: Lord of all...

D: O praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim Him, all you peoples.

R: Lord of all...

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. From all eternity and forever. Amen.

R: Lord of all...

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O great King of Glory, Eternal Being, You give life to our bodies in Your mercy, answer us and grant salvation to our souls by the peaceful intention of Your will; we confess, worship and glorify You at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: (*Ps 51*) Have mercy on me, O God, in Your lovingkindness. * In the depth of Your compassion, blot out my sins. * (*Qanona*) Teach me the path of Your laws; * I will keep Your commandments; * have mercy on me.

(*in alternating groups*) Have mercy on me, O God, in Your lovingkindness. / In the depth of Your compassion, blot out my sins.

Wash me clean from my iniquity, * and cleanse me of my sins.

For I know my iniquity, * and my sins are ever before me.

Against You alone have I sinned; * I have done what is evil in Your sight. * Therefore, You are justified in Your sentence * and blameless in Your judgments.

For in guilt was I born; * in sin my mother conceived me.

But You are pleased with truth, * and the secrets of Your wisdom You have revealed to me.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, * and I shall be made clean; * wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Fill me with Your joy and gladness, * that my broken spirit may rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my sins, * and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence; * and take not Your holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation; * and maintain me with Your glorious spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors Your way, * and sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, * and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your justice.

O Lord, open my lips, * and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

For You do not desire sacrifice; * You take no delight in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; * a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; * build the walls of Jerusalem.

Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of justice, * with burnt offerings and holocausts; * then shall they offer gifts on Your altar.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * From all eternity and forever. Amen.

(Qanona) Christ drew the picture of the world eternal* through His holy fasting.* He taught us the way to deny this world with all its desires,* and to hate gluttony, the root cause of all evils.

Christ healed our body, immersed in the waters of sin, through His fasting;* He washed and purified the souls filled with the debts of iniquity,* and made us His holy people.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O our Lord and our God, sprinkle us with the refreshing dew of the kindness of Your love. With it, wash us clean from the defilement of sins. You are the Good Shepherd who went forth to seek us, and found us when we were lost. In Your grace and mercy, You will that we should turn back to You, Lord of all, forever.

R: Amen.

D: In the morning, You shall hear my voice, O Lord;* and in the morning I shall prepare myself to see You.

(In two choirs) In the morning, You shall hear my voice, O Lord;* and in the morning I shall prepare myself to see You.

(Ps 5, 1-3) Give ear to my words, O Lord,* and consider my meditation.

Attend to the voice of my cry, my King and my God;* for to You do I pray.

In the morning, You shall hear my voice, O Lord;* and in the morning I shall prepare myself to see You.

(Ps 5, 6-7) You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;* the Lord will reject the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

But as for me, I shall come into Your house* through the greatness of Your mercy;* and I shall enter into Your house* and worship in Your holy temple.

(Breek Hannana...Isonathan...)

At the start of this our fasting,* with repentance and heart-felt tears,
let us draw near to the feet of* Jesus Christ, our Lord, and
ask Him
to forgive our sins and bring us* to His presence in His
mercy.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Jesus Christ, the hope of the human race and the harbour of peace, give us Your peace and comfort so that we may praise You all the days of our life, Lord of all, forever.

R: Amen.

D: Let us raise our voices and praise the living God!

R: *(Thuyai...)*

Holy, holy, holy God!
Holy, holy Mighty One!
Holy and Immortal One:
Lord, have mercy on us all!

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

R: Holy, holy...

D: **From all eternity and forever. Amen.**

R: *Holy, holy...*

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Holy God, glorious and mighty, O Immortal One, who dwell on the holy ones in whom You are well pleased, we entreat You: look upon us, O my Lord: pardon us and have mercy on us as You are

accustomed to at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

[The first lector, carrying the Old Testament lectionary, goes to the right side of the celebrant, faces the people and says:]

Be seated and be attentive. A reading from the book of Genesis (1, 1-19)

(Turning to the celebrant and inclining his head to him:)

Bless, O my Lord.

(The celebrant blesses him, saying:)

Blessed be God, the Lord of all, who makes us wise by His holy teaching. May His mercy be showered at all times upon the reader + and the listeners forever.

[After the first reading, the second reader reads the second reading (Joshua 1, 1-15) exactly in the same way. At its end:]

R: Praise be to the Lord, our God!

D: Let us stand for the *Surraya*

Surraya : Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 118, 1-8)

(Breek Hannana...Isonathan...)

Blessed are the undefiled,* walking in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are those keep Lord's sayings* and approach Him
in confidence.

Good people will not do evil,* they walk always in their
Lord's ways.

You have asked them to keep always* Your
commandments in diligence.

Enlighten me well O Lord God,* that I may keep Your commandments.

When I observe Your commandments,* my life shall be well enlightened.

Those who ponder on Your precepts* will worship You with a pure heart.

Forsake us not in our distress* who lived always with Your precepts.

Glory be to God the Father* to the Son and Holy Spirit.

From eternity and ever* now and always, Amen. Amen.

D: Let us pray; peace be with us.

C: O Lord our God, illumine our minds that we may pay attention to and understand the sweet voice of Your life-giving and divine commandments. In Your grace and mercy, grant that we may gather from them fruits of love, hope and salvation, beneficial to soul and body. We shall sing constant praise to You without ceasing, at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: *(standing at the left side of the celebrant and facing the people, says:)*

Brethren, a reading from the letter to the Romans.

(Turning to the celebrant, he says:) Bless, O my Lord!

(The celebrant blesses him, saying:)

C: May Christ make You wise by His holy teaching. In the goodness of His grace +, may He make you a true

mirror to those who hear from your lips the words of His doctrine. Amen.

(When the reading: Rom. 1, 1-25, is over)

R: Praise be to Christ, our Lord!

D: *(Ps 1, 1-2)* Blessed is the man* who walks not in the way of the wicked,* nor follows the counsel of sinners* nor sits in the company of the mockers.* But his delight is in the law of the Lord,* and he meditates on His law, day and night.* Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.

(The celebrant puts incense in the thurible and blesses it:)

C: O Lord, may that sweet scent which wafted forth from You when Mary, the sinner, poured fragrant ointment on Your head, be mingled with this incense, which we offer in Your honour, for the pardon of our debts and sins, Lord of all, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

(Community sings in two choirs)

(Viswasikale Kelpin...)

I. All you who believe in* God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,* hear the words that heal the body and give the soul life.

II. The Son of God assumed* the likeness of a true man among men,* and, by His command, liberated all from sin.

III. These words open for us* a life-giving spiritual treasury,* and this book is wholly filled with true life and bliss.

- IV. The devils flee in fear* and evil spirits depart in defeat* when they hear this blest, living and life-giving Word.
- V. This is the road to heav'n* this is the path to life prepared for you* so that you do not stumble down into pitfalls.
- VI. This is the discourse which* if the living despise, they shall perish.* This is the voice which, if the dead hear, they shall live.
- VII. This is Light, Truth and Life,* and He who is announced to you in it* is He that judges all the dead and the living.
- VIII. It is worthy to know* that all nations are saved only by Him.* Have firm faith that all sins are forgiven through Him.
- IX. The Sower now sets out* to sow His saving Word instead of seeds.* Bring before Him your hearts prepared in place of fields.
- X. His Word is Life and Bliss,* filled with kindness as well as His mercy.* His voice is hope for the living, life for the dead.
- XI. Blest indeed is the one* who believes in Him and trusts His Word;* the dead shall live, the living shall not die in sin.
- XII. The only Son of God* came to the world, born of a true Virgin,* in a nature surpassing that of the angels.
- XIII. He came and healed the sick,* He raised those who had fallen into death,* He cast out devils and destroyed death by His death.

- XIV. For though He truly died,* He trampled down death and broke its pow-er;* He rose from the dead and ascended into heav'n.
- XV. He sent the blest Spirit* on His Apostles and made them most wise,* then He sent them to all lands to preach the Gospel.
- XVI. And now Mar Matthew explains* those things that he saw and the things he heard,* and so let the one who has ears to hear, now hear!

(Towards the end of the turgamma, the celebrant approaches the altar with the accompaniment of the ministers who carry the lit candles and the thurible, takes the Gospel lectionary, reciting the usual prayers, and brings it to the bema in procession. At the end of the turgamma the deacon announces)

D: Stand attentively and listen to the holy Gospel!

C: Peace be + with you!

R: And with you and with your Spirit.

C: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: the preaching of Matthew.

R: Glory be to Christ our Lord!

(During the Gospel reading, the deacons who carry the lit candles stand on either side of the celebrant facing each other and the thurifer, in front of him, incensing the Gospel lectionary. At the end of the Gospel reading)

R: Glory be to Christ our lord!

Homily

(After the homily, the deacon begins the first Karozutha. Meanwhile the Eucharistic Gifts are prepared in the Beth-Gazze. All kneel down during the second Karozutha as a sign of beginning the fast)

Karozutha: Proclamation Prayer

I

D: Let us all stand with repentance and earnestness, and let us pray, saying: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You open the door of repentance to all sinners, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You came to call sinners to the path of repentance; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: During the time of his fast, You showed Moses the work of the ordering of creation; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: During Moses' fast, You revealed to him the origins of the world and the future realities to come; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You reconcile sinners by fasting, and You made the face of Moses shine; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You strengthened the prophet Elijah to walk a long way and revealed Yourself to him through his forty day fast; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You reconciled the Ninivites through fasting, turned away Your anger from them and did not destroy them; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You revealed hidden things to Daniel while he was fasting and shut the mouths of the hungry lions so that they did not hurt him; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You cooled the flames of the fire around Ananias and his companions who were fasting; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You make those who fast worthy to dwell with the spiritual angels; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: By Your holy fast, You paid the debt of Adam, the head of creation, who was greedy for the fruit and sinned in Paradise; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You defeated Satan with regard to the love of glory and power, with which he tempted You; we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: For the well-being of our holy fathers - the Pope (N), the Major Archbishop (N), the Archbishop (N), the Bishop (N) - and for their fellow ministers, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Compassionate God, who governs all things with tender mercy, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You are glorified in heaven by the heavenly ones and worshipped on earth by the earthly ones in spirit and in truth, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: You were honoured by the angels in Your fast, the spiritual ones served You, and You ascended in glory to Your Father: we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

D: Redeem Your Church from deceivers and gladden Your servants in the joy of Your Churches; lighten the burden of debts and sins of those who worship You, O Christ our Redeemer, and have mercy on us.

R: Amen.

II

D: Let us all kneel down and pray. Peace be with us. That He may hear our supplications in His mercy and answer us, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That He may look with mercy upon the Catholic Church and keep her perfect and joyful in the shadow of His mercy, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That He may protect the Church, overshadowing her with clouds of light, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: For our father (N), the Pope of Rome, our Major Archbishop (N), the Archbishops and the Bishops, that they may lead the Church like Moses, forgive her

members like Aaron, rule her like Peter, that thus there may be peace in the whole world and fitting hymns of praise be sung to You, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That our fathers, the true shepherds who lead the flock, the Bishops, may lead their sheep by words and deeds, keep their enemies far away, and show them the tranquil pastures of the Lord, that thus they may live in peace and tranquillity, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the priests who are entrusted with the task of purifying the world may liberate the people from the foul stench of sin through the sweet smelling fragrance like that of Aaron, and thus bring them back to the Church in order to increase her strength and honour, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the deacons who are the guardians of the hidden and incomprehensible Mysteries may serve in the sanctuary in a manner pleasing to the will of God who has set upon them the seal of service like the angels in heaven, and that they be enriched by the good news and be made friends of angels, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the children of the holy catholic Church, namely, the subdeacons, lectors, the vowed religious and the faithful grow mature and perfect in their respective states of life and live in expectation of the second

coming of the Lord, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, our Saviour and Life-Giver, that the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her may purify us by His graces, and being illumined by that Power, we may become worthy of the gifts given to the Saints, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering the saints, prophets, apostles, martyrs and confessors of the Church, that their prayers and the persecutions they suffered, may be a help to us, and our prayers and supplications be intermingled with theirs, and thus we all be blessed with them in the heavenly Kingdom, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: Remembering the holy fathers, the Bishops, Mar Gregory, Mar Basil and Mar John the Teachers and Doctors of the Church, Mar Jacob and Mar Aprem, and all the holy teachers and priests amidst us in the Church, that the true faith to which they bear witness may remain in the whole world, and that the true worship which is their life-experience may continue and be fixed in the Church, and that the children of the Church may be illumined by their teachings and by imitating them they may enjoy the heavenly Kingdom, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the judges of this passing world may not be afraid of justice, do justice without any partiality, not accept any kind of bribery, not side with any party and do think of the last judgement, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the rich among us may not depend excessively on their riches, but rather depend fully on God who has provided everything for the good of all, and may help the poor according to each one's ability, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the hungry may receive sufficient food, the suffering and afflicted be consoled, the sick find healing, the poor and needy find their necessities and thus all might praise the living God, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That all our brethren who have been imprisoned may be liberated and enjoy the freedom of the children of God, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That all the children of the holy catholic Church, especially this our community, be always protected from the evil one and that sinners may repent, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: That the sun may give its light properly, the powers of darkness flee away, the fountains produce an abundance of water, the trees and shrubs bring forth fruits and roots of all kinds and thus the hungry may

find food and that there be prosperity throughout the world, let us pray humbly to God, the Lord of all.

R: Amen.

D: It is right and fitting that we confess, adore, praise, exalt and honour the One God in Trinity: the Father, Lord of all; His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the living, holy and life-giving Spirit. For He has brought about our salvation. Let us humbly pray that He bless our yearly cycle and make us share in the happiness of His Kingdom. Let us also thank and praise Him to the end of time for the salvation that He has accomplished for us.

R: Amen.

D: Let us all stand up in the Power of God and pray.

III

D: Through prayer and supplication, for the angel of peace and mercy, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: For a lasting peace for Your Churches, and a life without sin, all through our life, by day and night, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: For unity of mind, lasting peace and the prosperity of pure love, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: For the remission of sins, sanctification of life and salvation of souls from Your treasury, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: Tranquillity for the elders, peace to the world, justice to the judges and sincerity to the rulers from You, the Merciful One, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: Protection for Your Church, stability to the priests, unity among the children of the Church, and long life to the leaders of the Church, we ask:

R: From You, O Lord!

D: Let us commend ourselves and one another to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

R: To You, O Lord, our God.

C: Lord, God Almighty, we ask and implore You to perfect in us Your grace and pour forth Your gifts through our hands. Strengthen us that we may be able to bear joyfully our difficulties and sufferings, joining them to the sufferings of Your beloved Son and our Lord Jesus Christ and let us continue His life of self immolation. Help us that we may make fruitful this season of fasting, which we begin today through the true spirit of prayer, renunciation and almsgiving, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen

D: Bless, O Lord: Bow down your heads for the imposition of hands and receive the blessing.

[The order of the Qurbana continues as in the Thaksa. The special hymns and prayers of the day are given below]

Onitha d-Raze : Anthem of the Mysteries*(Brikithon...Karthavil Jnan...)***God is our refuge and our strength** (*Ps 46,1*)

Come now, O people:
see, the time has come!
The Lord is coming.
Let us now approach with tears
to our Saviour and entreat:
“Lord, have mercy on us all!
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
forever – You are holy, Lord!”

He is a well-proved help in trouble (*Ps 46,1*)

O our Lord Jesus,
You came to this world
searching for sinners.
Show Your mercy to us all
who beseech You now with tears.
Forgive us our sins and debts.
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Forever – You are holy, Lord!

Onitha d-Bema : Communion Hymn*(Thuyai...)*

God’s Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
is adored forevermore
in the Church for He gives there
His Body and Blood as food.

My dear brothers, please draw near,
let us all sing His glory,
for He reigns within His world
from the Altar in His love.

Invitation to Communion

D: God who is hidden from all revealed Himself in Jesus Christ in order to vivify all. Come, let us receive His Body and Blood and sing *Alleluia*!

Tesbohta : Hymn of Thanksgiving

[People's thanksgiving after the communion]

(Bendan Sapra...)

R: With true faith, we have received
O Lord, Your blest Mysteries.
May they be for forgiveness.
O Christ, King of the Ages,

You have cleansed us of our stains
And forgiven Your faithful.
Make us worthy to meet You
With trust when You come again
And praise You with angel hosts.

Huttamma : Sealing Prayer

(Thuyai...)

☩: Let our praise be sung to Christ
in the Church of the redeemed.

He has fed us with Himself
and forgave our debts and sins.

R: Amen.

C: May He pour His blessings forth,
His compassion and His love,
upon you, His chosen ones,
who are sheep of His own flock.

R: Amen.

C: Let Him be compassionate
on the sheep of His own flock,
we who begin Fast today
in His holy temple, Church.

R: Amen.

C: May His grace abound in us.
May His right hand be on us,
to provide and to protect
both now + and forevermore.

R: Amen.

OR

C: Let there be praise sung in the Church to Him who pardons our debts by His Body and blot out our sins by His Blood. May He pour out His blessings upon you, His people, the sheep of His flock. May His mercy and His grace abound in us who are beginning the Great Fast today. May the right hand of His providence be upon us + now and always and forever.

R: Amen.

ENDANA (Noon Liturgy)

*[The candles on either side of the St. Thomas Cross on the Bema are lit.
The sanctuary remains closed with its veil.]*

“Glory to God...” and “Our Father...” are sung or recited as at the beginning. (p .1..)

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, You are the refuge of sinners and the comfort of the afflicted. Awaken us from idleness and teach us to serve You with diligence, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Marmitha: Psalmody

D: (Ps 22) My God, my God, why have You let me live? *
And yet You have delayed my salvation from me, *
because of the words of my folly. * (Qanona) Halleluia,
halleluia, halleluia.

(In alternating choirs) My God, my God, why have You let me live? * And yet You have delayed my salvation from me, * because of the words of my folly.

O my God, I call to You in daytime * but You do not answer me; * and at night, You do not abide with me.

For You are the Holy One, * and Israel dwells under Your glory.

Our fathers trusted in You; * they trusted, and You delivered them.

They cried out to You and were delivered; * they trusted in You, and they were not confounded.

But I am a worm, and not a man; * a reproach among men, and despised among people.

All those who saw me have laughed me to scorn; * they mock with their lips; * they shake their heads and say:

He trusted in the Lord; * let the Lord deliver him; * let Him save him, if He is pleased with him.

For You are trust since I came out of the womb,* and my hope since I was at my mother's breasts.

I was put under Your care from birth; * from my mother's womb, You are my God.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near; * for there is no one to help me.

Many bulls have surrounded me: * strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Their mouths snarl against me * like a hungry and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water * and all my bones are out of joint; * my heart has melted like wax, * my bowels are wasted within me.

My strength has dried up like baked clay; * and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; * and You have cast me down into the dust of death.

For the vicious have surrounded me; * the assembly of the wicked have closed in upon me; * they have pierced my hands and my feet.

My bones ached with pain; * they looked and stared at me.

They divided my garments among them, * and cast lots for my vesture.

But, O Lord, be not far from me! * O God, O God, stay near to help me!

Deliver my soul from the sword, * my only self from the hand of the wicked.

Save me from the lion's mouth; * save my lowliness from the haughty,

That I may proclaim Your Name to my brethren; * in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

You who revere the Lord, praise Him! * All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him! * And fear Him, all you descendants of Israel!

For He has not despised nor spurned the affliction of the poor man; * nor has He turned away His face from him; * but when he cried out to Him, He heard him.

My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; * I will fulfill my vows before those who worship Him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; * those who seek the Lord shall praise Him; * their hearts shall live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; * and all the families of the nations shall worship before You!

For the kingdom is the Lord's; * He is ruler over the nations.

All those who are hungry upon earth * shall eat and worship in the presence of the Lord; * all those who are buried shall kneel before Him. * My soul is alive to Him.

An offspring shall serve Him; * the generations to come shall proclaim the Lord.

They shall come and declare His justice * to a people that shall be born, * and tell what the Lord has done.

(Ps 23) The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not want.

He makes me rest in green pastures; * He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul. * He leads me in the paths of justice for His Name's sake.

Yes, although I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,* I will fear no evil; * for You are with me; * Your rod and Your staff comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; * You anoint my head with oil; * my cup runs over.

Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me * all the days of my life; * and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Ps 24) The Lord's are the earth and its fullness, * the world and those who dwell in it.

For he set its foundation upon the sea, * and furnished it with rivers.

Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? * Or who shall stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart; * who has not sworn falsely by his soul, * nor has taken an oath deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, * and justice from God our Saviour.

This is the generation of those who seek Your face, * that proclaims Your countenance, O God of Jacob!

Lift up your lintels, O you gates; * and be lifted up, O everlasting doors, * that the King of Glory may come in!

Who is this King of Glory? * The Lord, strong and mighty, * the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your lintels, O you gates; * and be lifted up, O everlasting doors, * that the King of Glory may come in!

Who is this King of Glory? * The Lord of Hosts! * He is the King of Glory for ever!

Let us be diligent in our duty, * since the Almighty has saved us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * From all eternity and forever. Amen.

D: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Tesbohta: Hymn of Praise*(Thuyai...)*

Glorious are You, O our Lord:
it is right for all of us
to give You praise and glory
all days, evermore. Amen.

Glory be to You, O Christ!
Thanks to Him who lets us sing
Alleluia chants and hymns,
our praises to honour Him.

Let us sing and glorify:
to the Father, we give praise,
to the Son and Spirit blest
now and evermore. Amen.

Insufficient, O my Lord,
is our mouth to give You thanks
all our days, our whole life long,
for Your mercy and Your grace.

Lord of mercy, pity us:
none are holy in Your sight.
You have freed us from error
and we glorify Your Name!

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O Lord, may the Name of Your Divinity and Majesty
be adored, glorified, honoured, exalted, confessed and
blessed in heaven and on earth by the mouths of all the
rational beings You have created, and by the tongues
You have formed to glorify You, and by all the
congregations of those in heaven and those on earth,
Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Onitha d-Endana: Noon Anthem*(Bendan Sapra...)*

Who shall narrate the wonders of the Lord?
Who is there, Lord, in this world,
to bless You, our Creator?
At the beginning of time
You made man in Your image.
At time's fullness You have come
and have saved our fallen race.

We will always praise You:
Lord, Creator of this world,
we praise and sing hymns to You.
The rain of Your love and care
falls both on the good and bad.
Lord of all, most merciful,
we all bless You evermore!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
Treasury of all mercy,
without limit, show mercy:
let our wand'ring, suff'ring race
be saved in Your great mercy.
Let afflictions be removed
from our fallen, striving race.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Our Lord and our God, may the angels praise You,
men glorify You, and the whole creation worship You,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

Tesbohta : Hymn of Praise*(Thuyai...)*

Our Lord, we Your servants are
unable to sing to You
in return for the mercy
You show to us ev'ry day.

Those who keep Your commandments
are blest always in Your sight;
from all evil they shall flee,
and walk safely in Your paths.

Lord most merciful and just,
show Your mercy to us all:
for no creature You have made
can stand as just in Your sight.

You have saved us all, dear Lord,
from the cunning evil one
Almighty and all-holy,
You are honoured evermore!

Karozutha : Proclamation Prayer

D: Let us stand with repentance and earnestness and let us
pray, saying: "Have mercy on us, O Lord!"

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: O most merciful One who generously justify sinners,
we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: You who went in search of our race which was
immersed in sin, the Good Shepherd who handed
Yourself over for us, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: You, the ideal Judge who never become angry, and who send Your Spirit upon us for our repentance, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: You, the good Physician of our race, who appeared in our humanity and healed our wounds of sin, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: You who have given great hope to the repentant, and the One who received and purified the publicans and sinners, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: For the well-being of our Holy Father, Pope Mar (N), head of all the Churches of Christ, and our Major Archbishop Mar (N), and our Archbishop Mar (N), and our Bishop Mar (N) and for all their fellow-ministers, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: Compassionate God, who governs all things with tender mercy, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: You who are glorified in heaven and worshipped on earth, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: That the sinners may repent, the repentant may be justified and the just may be made perfect, we implore You:

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: Save us, O Christ our Lord, through Your grace, fill us with Your peace and tranquillity and have mercy on us.

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, mighty God, to You we commend our body and soul; from You we ask the forgiveness of our debts and sins, O our Lord and our God. Grant us this in Your goodness and mercy as You are accustomed to at all times, Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen.

D: Let us raise our voices and praise the living God!

R: *(Thuyai...)*

Holy, holy, holy God!

Holy, holy Mighty One!

Holy and Immortal One:

Lord, have mercy on us all!

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

R: Holy, holy...

D: **From all eternity and forever. Amen.**

R: Holy, holy...

C: Our Father in heaven....*(as at the beginning of Ramsa)*

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O Lord, Your Name is holy; Your abode is holy; those who dwell in heaven and worship You are holy; You sanctify our hearts which are the temple of God. You purify our conscience; You forgive our sins, God who sanctify all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

C: Lord, bless us in Your mercy and protect us from all dangers. Keep us in the shade of Your most loving Providence, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

C: Lord, may the hidden power, infinite blessing and unceasing help of Your glorious Trinity be given to us. May the prayer of the holy Virgin Mary, *Mar Yawsep* and the blessed Apostles, the intercession of our Father *Mar Thomma Sliha*, *Mar Giwargis* and the other martyrs, of the patron (*patroness*) of this church, of the confessors and all the Saints, help us. May these be our refuge, help and protection from the evil one and all his army and lead us to eternal happiness, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever.

R: Amen. Bless, O Lord.

[If a Bishop or Priest leads the Divine Praises, he sings or recites the Huttamma facing the faithful and seals them with the sign of the Cross at its end.]

(Thuyai...)

C: Let there be praise giv'n to God,
honour to His angel hosts,
shame to Satan, mankind's foe.
rev'ence to the Holy Cross.

R: Amen.

C: Glory be giv'n to the Church,
resurrection to the dead,
pardon to repentant souls,
liberation to captives.

R: Amen.

C: Healing and recovery

to the sick and suffering,
lasting peace and harmony
to all nations in the world.

R: Amen.

C: Weak and sinful though we be,
by grace we now celebrate
beginning of our great fasting
in Your presence, Lord and God!

R: Amen.

C: May His bountiful mercy
and His blessings be with us
and all creatures of the world,
both now + and for evermore.

R: Amen.

OR:

C: Let there be praise to God,* veneration to the angels,*
shame to Satan,* reverence to the Holy Cross,* glory to
the Church,* resurrection to the dead,* forgiveness to the
repentant,* liberation to prisoners,* health to the sick* and
lasting peace to the world.* May the bountiful mercy and
blessing of God* be with us who, though weak and
sinful,* are celebrating the beginning of our Great Fast,*
and with all creatures of the world,* now and always, +
and forever.

R: Amen.

APPENDIX

HYMN FOR ASHES

(Breek Hannana)

I

Season of fast is at our hand * let us leave out sinful living.

How shall we request Your mercy * sinners who are not truthful
ones.

Tongue which always uttered untruth * how can now speak in
front of You.

In the state of iniquity * none can confront God immortal.

Before judgement falls upon us * let us approach, ask Him
mercy.

Let us seek His safe protection * walking well with helping
actions.

Let Him who has moulded mankind * show His mercy and
compassion.

Lord who judges all the humans * pity those who have drunk
Your blood.

Lord of mercy blot out all our * debts and sins which are before
You.

Thinking of Your fearful judgement * trembles my soul
exceedingly.

Son of man in brilliant glory * will come to judge all the
humans.

Human beings stand in fear * in the presence of judge of all.

He will call all good ones to Him * as the shepherd calls his
sheepings.

Who will come then helping me, Lord * You only can extend
Your hand.

Friends and neighbours will stand helpless * pitying on my
helplessness.

I sinned O Lord and did evil * and not worthy of Your mercy.
Judge me not in Your justice, Lord * show Your mercy is of no
bounds.

Glory be to God the Father * to the Son and Holy Spirit.
From eternity and ever * now and always, Amen. Amen.

II

Joseph on that day in distress * prayed in his heart and asked the
Lord.

Lord descended, saved him outright * made him lord of all the
Egypt.

Sons of Israel, pouring tears * prayed in their heart in their
distress.

Hearing prayers God immortal * send His servant Moses to
them.

Moses prayed on top of mountain * forty days in intense fasting.
God of mercy heard his prayers * gave him laws and showed
him His love.

Without eating Hanna prayed God * for a son in her good old
age.

Helping poor, sacrificing * requested Lord for this great gift.
God descended, heard her prayers * gave her Samuel, "God has
heard me".

David when he committed sin * sat in ashes, fasted and prayed.
God of mercy heard his prayers * forgave him through Prophet
Nathan.

Thrown into the burning furnace * they three prayed with
fervour unmatched.

God in mercy sent His angel * who protected them from all
harms.

Daniel too sat in ashes * prayed the Lord to show him His sign.
God Almighty sent His angel * and guarded him in lion's den.

Niniveh City, full of evil * heard the prophet's threat and warning.

In forty days Nineveh will be * struck down and be brought to nothing.

King and leaders with the people * trembled with the prophet's warning.

All of them then dressed in sackcloth * put on ashes and repented.

God in mercy heard their prayers * saved the city with its people.

King of Persia gave his orders * for destroying God's Israel.
Esther the Queen put off her crown * sat in ashes, prayed to the Lord.

"Lord and my God, You are always * help of needy in all distress".

Prayed Israel with Queen Esther * weeping in their Persian distress.

Lord of mercy heard their crying * saved them from the persecutor.

When the heart is full of remorse * debts and sins will be forgiven.

God will hear the petitions of * people who fast and do give alms.

Jesus, Son of God, incarnate * showed in essence need of fasting.

Show us mercy, O Lord our God, * and forgive us sinful debtors.

Glory be to God the Father * to the Son and Holy Spirit.

From eternity forever * now and always, Amen. Amen.



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